United Nations S/2017/257

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 March 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 26 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write further to our previous identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council regarding the serious threat facing the Furat and Baath Dams as a result of the indiscriminate aerial bombardment of those facilities by the forces of the so-called international coalition led by the United States of America, the latest of which were the identical letters of 2 March 2017. I regret to inform you that the so-called international coalition has intensified its relentless and unceasing bombardment, portending an unprecedented humanitarian and environmental catastrophe.

A number of workers at the Furat and Baath Dams were killed in the indiscriminate, savage raids that were carried out by the forces of the so-called international coalition. Technicians working at those dams were forced to leave their work, as it had become very difficult, if not impossible, to enter the work site.

The continuation of this bombardment threatens to take the electrical power systems out of service and inundate the areas surrounding the Furat and Baath Dams owing to equipment failure, as technicians are unable to reach the dam and repair and operate the equipment. It should be noted that the Furat and Baath stations require constant maintenance because their equipment is old and requires repair and maintenance daily.

The decision of the so-called international coalition led by the United States of America to ignore what we had warned of in our letter of 2 March 2017 means that the day of catastrophe is now closer. Moreover, the decision of the Security Council to ignore the appeals of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic means that it is giving this illegitimate alliance the green light to destroy the infrastructure of Syria and accepting a catastrophe in which cities and villages in Syria and Iraq would be wiped out if the Furat Dam were to collapse.

The members of the Security Council must act with the seriousness required to halt this catastrophe if they are to prevent the death of hundreds of thousands persons who live along the river and preserve the environment in the area that would be inundated.

17-04968 (E) 290317 300317

Please recycle

The Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns the raid carried out by the so-called international coalition against the Furat and Baath Dams, and calls on the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, collectively and individually, to intervene immediately and forcefully in order to halt the aggressions of this coalition and its plans to destroy the people and environment of Syria. The operations of the so-called international coalition, which it is conducting under the pretext of countering terrorism in Syria, continue to be for show and are not serious. These are also suspect because they are being conducted without coordination with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and are not authorized by a resolution of the Security Council, which alone has the authority to respond to threats to international peace and security.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.